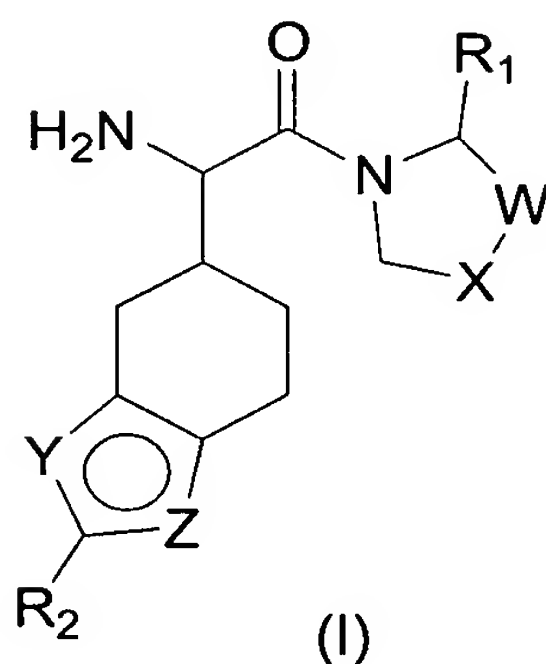


Amendment to the Claims:

Cancel Claims 22 and 24-31.

Listing of Claims:

1. (original) A compound of structural formula I:



wherein:

each n is independently 0, 1, 2, or 3;

W is selected from the group consisting of CH₂, CHF, and CF₂;

X is selected from the group consisting of S, S(O), S(O)₂, CH₂, CHF, and CF₂;

Y and Z are each independently selected from the group consisting of O, S, N, and NR⁷, with the proviso that at least one of Y and Z is N;

R¹ is hydrogen or cyano;

R² is selected from the group consisting of

hydrogen,

halogen,

cyano,

hydroxy,

C₁₋₆ alkyl, wherein alkyl is unsubstituted or substituted with one to five halogens,

C₁₋₆ alkoxy, wherein alkoxy is unsubstituted or substituted with one to five halogens,

$(CH_2)_n-COOH$,
 $(CH_2)_n-COOC_{1-6}$ alkyl,
 $(CH_2)_n-CONR^3R^4$,
 $(CH_2)_n-NR^3R^4$,
 $(CH_2)_n-NR^6SO_2R^5$,
 $(CH_2)_n-NR^6CONR^3R^4$,
 $(CH_2)_n-NR^6COR^6$,
 $(CH_2)_n-NR^6CO_2R^5$,
 $(CH_2)_n$ -aryl, wherein aryl is unsubstituted or substituted with one to five substituents independently selected from halogen, hydroxy, CO_2H , C_{1-6} alkyloxycarbonyl, C_{1-6} alkyl, C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, and C_{1-6} alkoxy, wherein alkyl and alkoxy are unsubstituted or substituted with one to five halogens, wherein any methylene (CH_2) carbon atom in R^2 is independently unsubstituted or substituted with one to two groups independently selected from halogen, hydroxy, and C_{1-4} alkyl unsubstituted or substituted with one to five halogens;

R^3 and R^4 are independently selected from the group consisting of

hydrogen,
 $(CH_2)_n$ -phenyl,
 $(CH_2)_n$ - C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, and
 C_{1-6} alkyl,

wherein alkyl is unsubstituted or substituted with one to five halogens and wherein phenyl and cycloalkyl are unsubstituted or substituted with one to five substituents independently selected from halogen, hydroxy, C_{1-6} alkyl, and C_{1-6} alkoxy, wherein alkyl and alkoxy are unsubstituted or substituted with one to five halogens; or

R^3 and R^4 together with the nitrogen atom to which they are attached form a heterocyclic ring selected from azetidine, pyrrolidine, piperidine, piperazine, and morpholine wherein said heterocyclic ring is unsubstituted or substituted with one to three substituents independently selected from halogen, hydroxy, C_{1-6} alkyl, and C_{1-6} alkoxy, wherein alkyl and alkoxy are unsubstituted or substituted with one to five halogens;

each R^5 is independently selected from the group consisting of $(CH_2)_n$ -phenyl, $(CH_2)_n$ - C_{3-6} cycloalkyl, and C_{1-6} alkyl, wherein alkyl is unsubstituted or substituted with one to five halogens and wherein phenyl and cycloalkyl are unsubstituted or substituted with one to five substituents

independently selected from halogen, hydroxy, C₁-6 alkyl, and C₁-6 alkoxy, wherein alkyl and alkoxy are unsubstituted or substituted with one to five halogens, and wherein any methylene (CH₂) carbon atom in R⁵ is unsubstituted or substituted with one to two groups independently selected from halogen, hydroxy, and C₁-4 alkyl unsubstituted or substituted with one to five halogens;

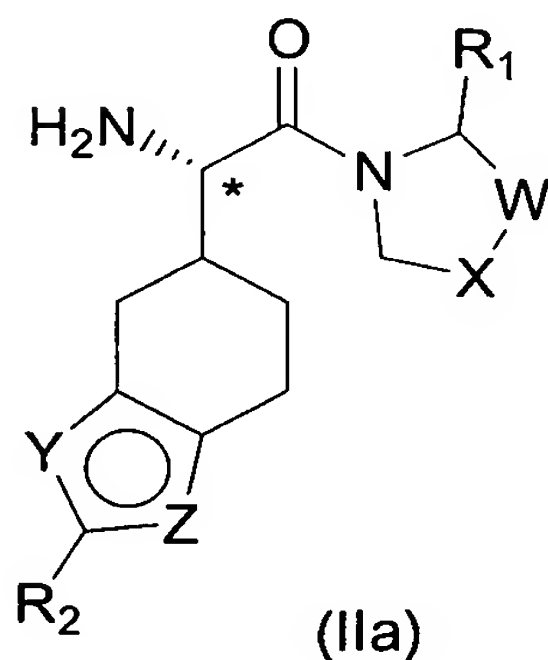
each R⁶ is hydrogen or R⁵; and

R⁷ is selected from the group consisting of

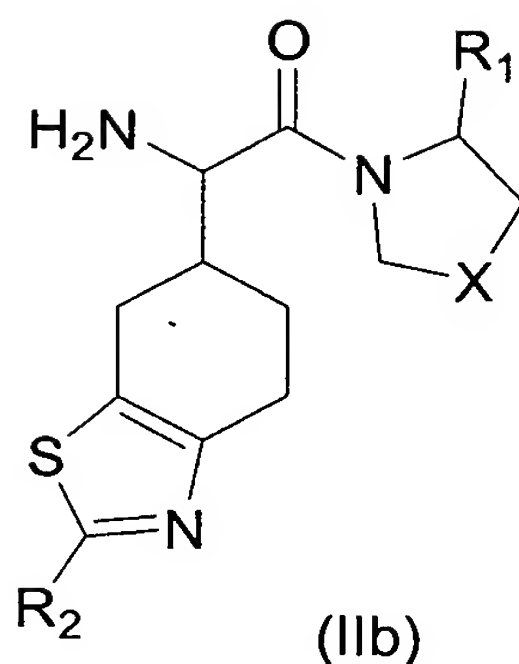
hydrogen,
 (CH₂)_n-phenyl,
 (CH₂)_n-C₃-6 cycloalkyl, and
 C₁-6 alkyl,

wherein alkyl is unsubstituted or substituted with one to five halogens and wherein phenyl and cycloalkyl are unsubstituted or substituted with one to five substituents independently selected from halogen, hydroxy, C₁-6 alkyl, and C₁-6 alkoxy, wherein alkyl and alkoxy are unsubstituted or substituted with one to five halogens.

2. (original) The compound of Claim 1 wherein the carbon atom marked with an * has the stereochemical configuration as depicted in formula IIa:

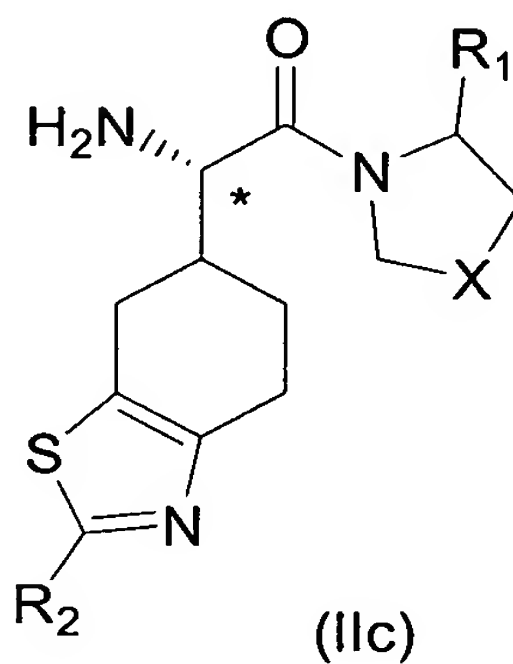


3. (original) The compound of Claim 1 of structural formula IIb:



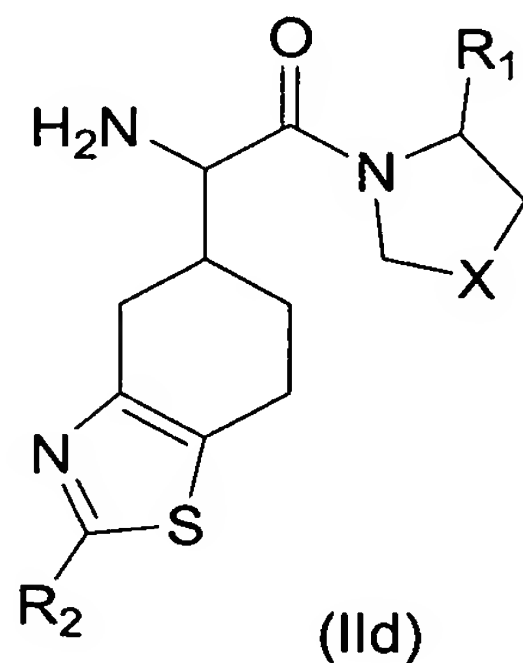
4. (original) The compound of Claim 3 wherein X is CH₂, CHF, or CF₂ and R¹ is hydrogen.

5. (original) The compound of Claim 3 wherein the carbon atom marked with an * has the stereochemical configuration as depicted in formula IIc:



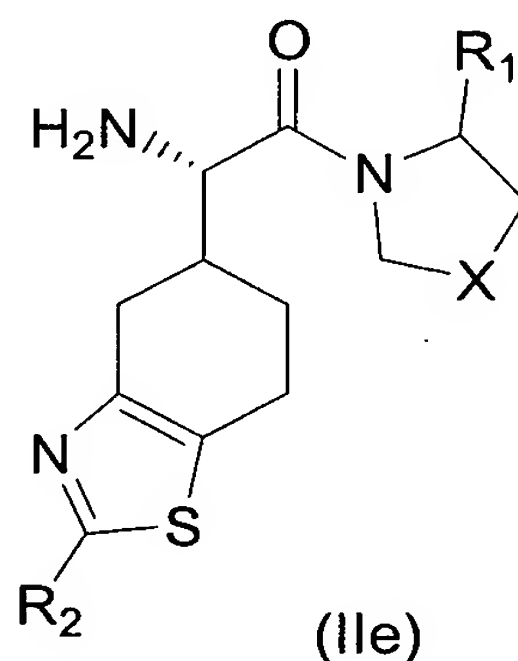
and wherein X is CH₂, CHF, or CF₂ and R¹ is hydrogen.

6. (original) The compound of Claim 1 of structural formula Id:



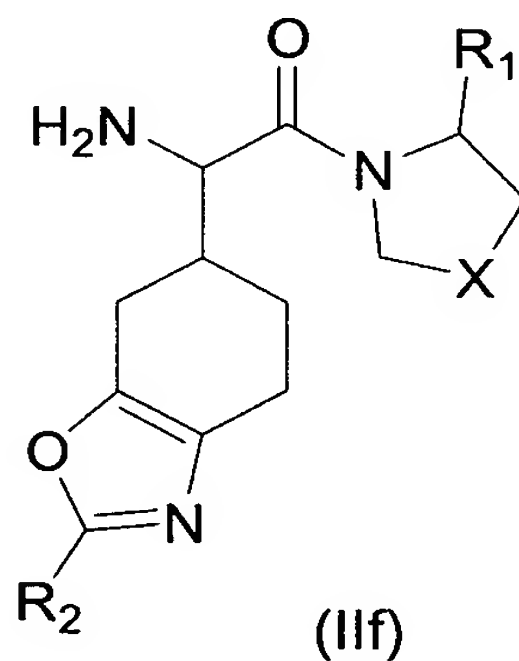
7. (original) The compound of Claim 6 wherein X is CH₂, CHF, or CF₂ and R¹ is hydrogen.

8. (original) The compound of Claim 6 wherein the carbon atom marked with an * has the stereochemical configuration as depicted in formula IIe:



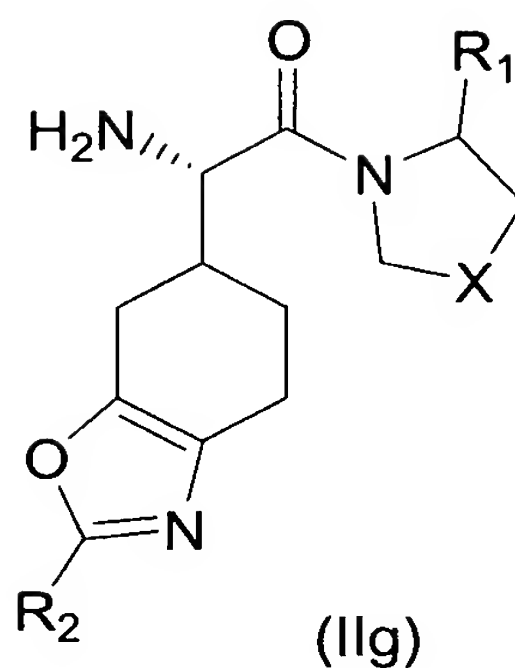
wherein X is CH₂, CHF, or CF₂ and R¹ is hydrogen.

9. (original) The compound of Claim 1 of structural formula II f:



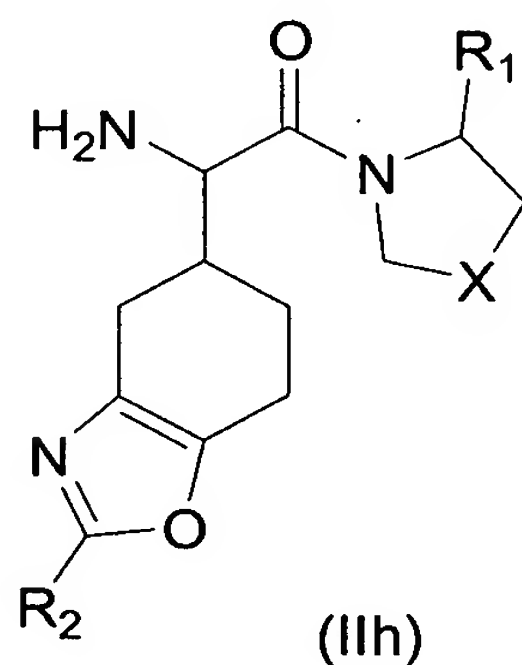
10. (original) The compound of Claim 9 wherein X is CH₂, CHF, or CF₂ and R¹ is hydrogen.

11. (original) The compound of Claim 9 wherein the carbon atom marked with an * has the stereochemical configuration as depicted in formula IIg:



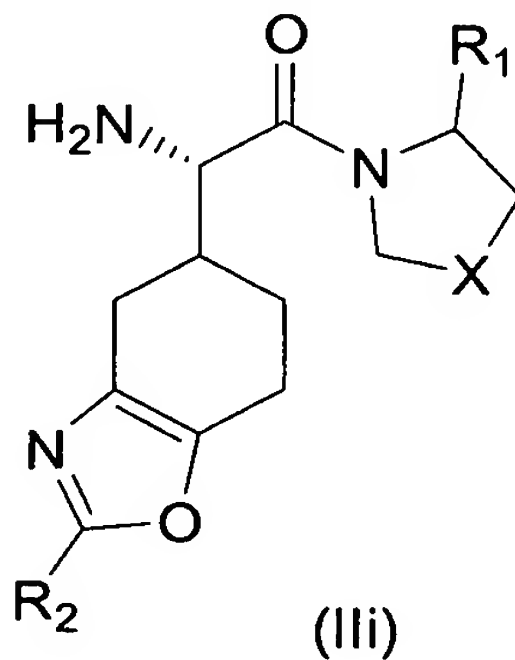
wherein X is CH₂, CHF, or CF₂ and R¹ is hydrogen.

12. (original) The compound of Claim 1 of structural formula IIh:



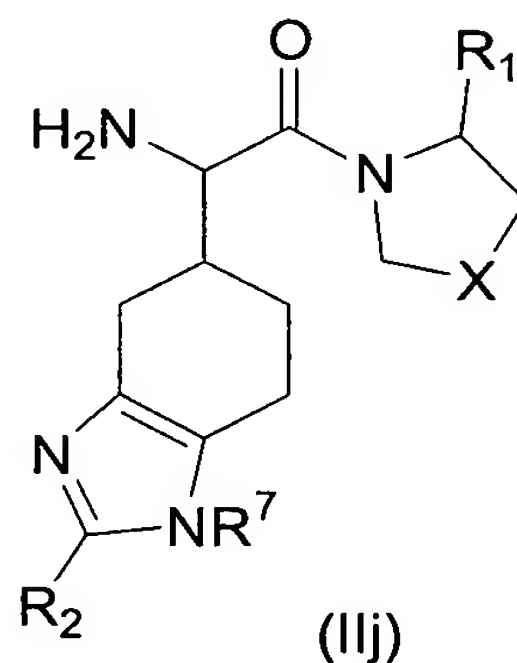
13. (original) The compound of Claim 12 wherein X is CH₂, CHF, or CF₂ and R¹ is hydrogen.

14. (original) The compound of Claim 12 wherein the carbon atom marked with an * has the stereochemical configuration as depicted in formula IIIi:



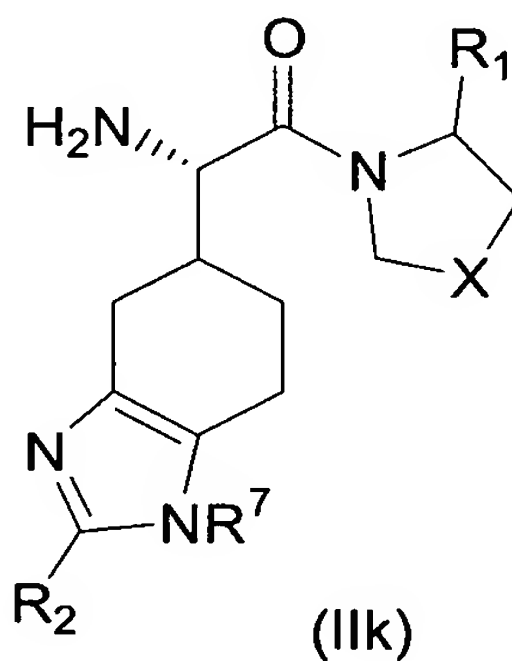
wherein X is CH₂, CHF, or CF₂ and R¹ is hydrogen.

15. (original) The compound of Claim 1 of structural formula IIj:



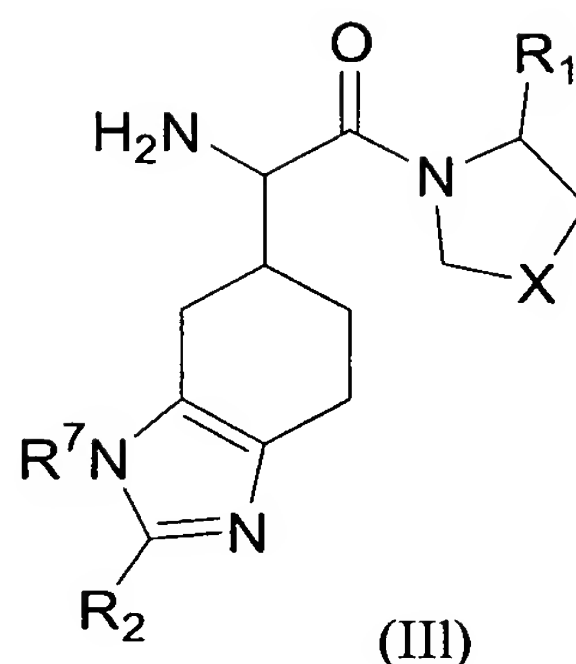
16. (original) The compound of Claim 15 wherein X is CH₂, CHF, or CF₂ and R¹ is hydrogen.

17. (original) The compound of Claim 15 wherein the carbon atom marked with an * has the stereochemical configuration as depicted in formula IIk:



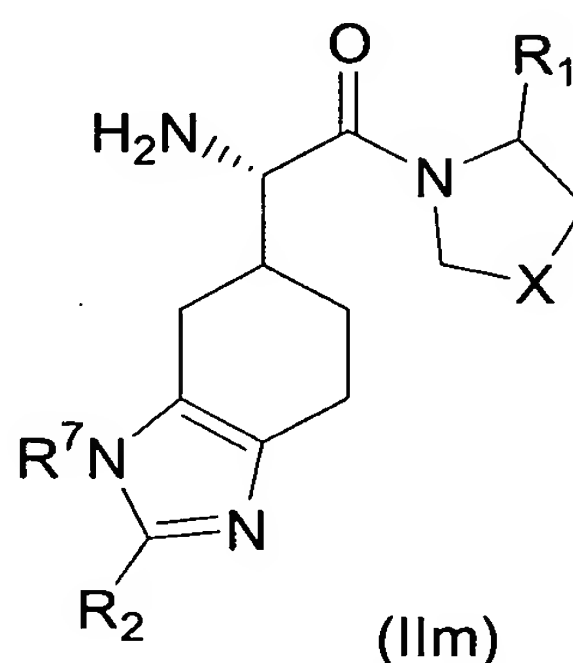
wherein X is CH₂, CHF, or CF₂ and R¹ is hydrogen.

18. (original) The compound of Claim 1 of structural formula III:



19. (original) The compound of Claim 18 wherein X is CH₂, CHF, or CF₂ and R¹ is hydrogen.

20. (original) The compound of Claim 18 wherein the carbon atom marked with an * has the stereochemical configuration as depicted in formula II_m:



wherein X is CH₂, CHF, or CF₂ and R¹ is hydrogen.

21. (original) A pharmaceutical composition which comprises a compound of Claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

22. (cancelled)

23. (original) A method for treating non-insulin dependent (Type 2) diabetes in a mammal in need thereof which comprises the administration to the mammal of a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of Claim 1.

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24-31. (cancelled)